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PATENT Attorney Docket No.: 020618-000120US

Client Ref. No.: N8-79CIP2

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Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gregory S. Hageman

Application No.: 10/007,270

Filed: November 8, 2001

For: NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING INTERPHOTORECEPTOR MATRIX

PROTEINS (AS AMENDED)

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 3566

Examiner:

Seharaseyon, Jegatheesan

Technology Center/Art Unit: 1647

<u>AMENDMENT</u>

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 8, 2004, which set June 8, 2004 as the initial deadline for filing a response. A three month petition for extension of time is enclosed, thus extending the deadline until September 8, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Appl. No. 10/007,270 Amdt. dated September 8, 2004 Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2004

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.